

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nicholls et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,662,232). Applicants traverse the rejection because the cited reference does not teach or suggest, among other things, the key information extraction means for examining the title or body of the e-mail message received by the reception means, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7.

The Examiner cites Nicholls as teaching a message processing apparatus for receiving and displaying e-mail messages that includes a keyword information extraction means. In the Office Action (Paper No. 14, on page 3), the Examiner states that keywords such as “allport” etc. in e-mail messages can be in any section of the e-mail message in Nicholls, and cites Col. 6, lines 13-43 as teaching this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree with this statement of the Examiner.

Nicholls provides a message server 12 that delivers an e-mail message to a subscriber, converts that e-mail message to another chosen format (e.g. facsimile, pager or telephoning), and delivers the message in that format based upon predefined criteria chosen by a subscriber (Col. 3, lns. 16-21). Messaging tasks are defined as converting and/or re-transmitting of the e-mail message based upon the subscriber’s criteria as pre-programmed in a processor 14 (Col. 4, lns. 48-52). If no time period messaging tasks have been enabled, or if enabled initiation of a time period messaging task has not disabled pre-programmed priority and global messaging tasks, then a determination is made as to whether the recipient

has enabled any “priority features.” Nicholls defines priority features as the immediate performance of a chosen enhancement feature when an e-mail message is received from a predetermined sender. Nicholls further states that the subscriber may program the processor 14 to perform a specific task for all e-mail messages having “allport” appearing in the user identification (e.g., allport@work.com). Alternatively, a subscriber may program the processor 14 to perform a specific task for all e-mail messages being sent from the domain name “PB ltd” (e.g., Scottbr@PB ltd.com). (See Col. 4, line 55 to Col. 5, line 13). Clearly, Nicholls teaches keyword information extraction of the user identification portion or domain name portion of a header of an e-mail message.

In contrast, the present invention was previously amended to clarify that the key information extraction means examine the title or body of an e-mail message received by the reception means. Since the cited reference does not disclose the above patentable feature of the present invention, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of independent claims 1 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Since claims 2 and 4 depend upon claim 1, they necessarily include all of the features of their associated independent claim plus other additional features. Thus, Applicants submit that the §102 rejection of claims 2 and 4 has also been overcome for the same reasons mentioned above to overcome the rejection of independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the §102 rejection of claims 2 and 4 also be withdrawn.

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Nicholls, in view of Fujiwara (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,710). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection to independent claim 1. More particularly, the Fujiwara reference is merely cited by the Examiner for teaching that programs can be pre-stored or downloaded as a matter of design choice. More specifically, Fujiwara fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Nicholls reference with respect to teaching or suggesting a keyword information extraction means for examining the title or body of the e-mail message. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of dependent claims 5-6 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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